Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

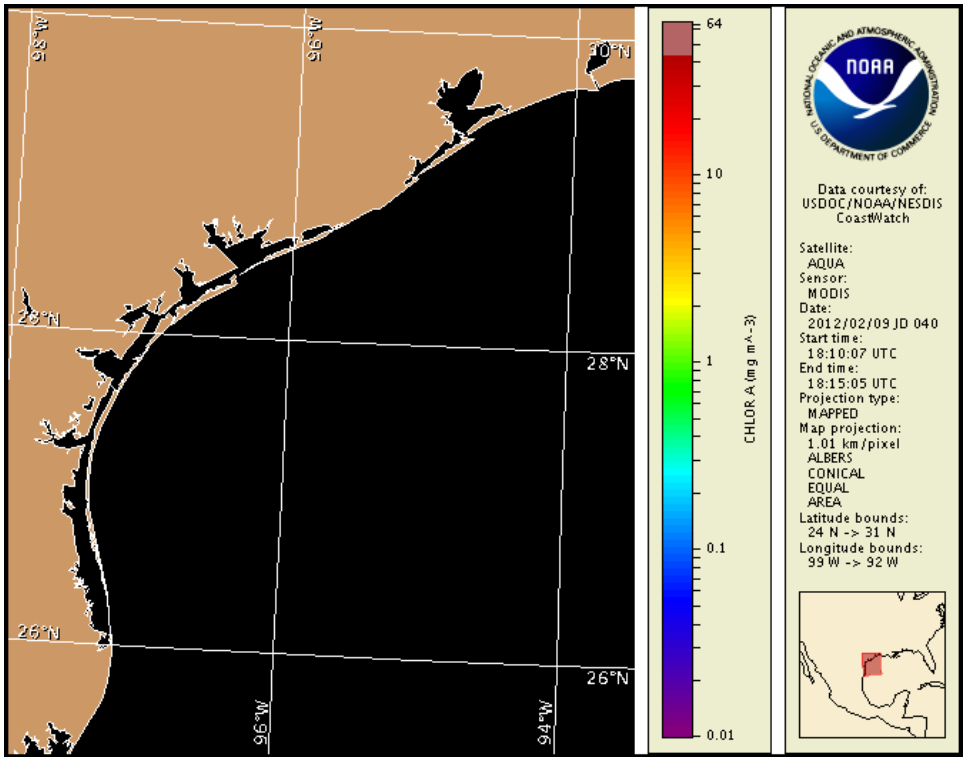
Monday, 13 February 2012

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Thursday, February 9, 2012



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from February 3 to 10 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive: http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html

Conditions Report

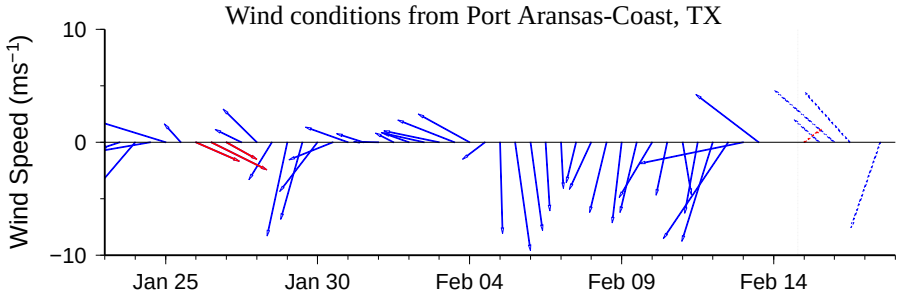
There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of Karenia brevis (Texas red tide) at the coast in Texas. No impacts are expected alongshore Texas today through Monday, February 20. The harmful algae, Dinophysis, has been identified in the Freeport and Port Aransas areas. Dinophysis does not produce the respiratory irritation impacts associated with the Texas red tide caused by Karenia brevis. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has opened select areas of Galveston Bay, Lavaca Bay, Espiritu Santo Bay, and San Antonio Bay to shellfish harvesting. For the latest information on the opening and closing of shellfish harvest areas, please call DSHS at 1-800-685-0361.

Analysis

Note: As of today, February 13, bulletins will be issued once per week on Mondays due to harmful algal bloom inactivity. Bulletins will be issued twice per week when conditions warrant. Due to the upcoming Federal Holiday, the next bulletin will be issued on Tuesday, February 21.

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of *Karenia brevis* at the coast in Texas. No updates are available for the *Dinophysis* bloom identified in the Freeport and Port Aransas areas last week (2/8; TPWD). MODIS imagery continues to be obscured by clouds along the Texas coastline from Sabine Pass to south of the Rio Grande, limiting analysis. Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a potential maximum transport of 140km south from the Port Aransas region from February 12 to 16.

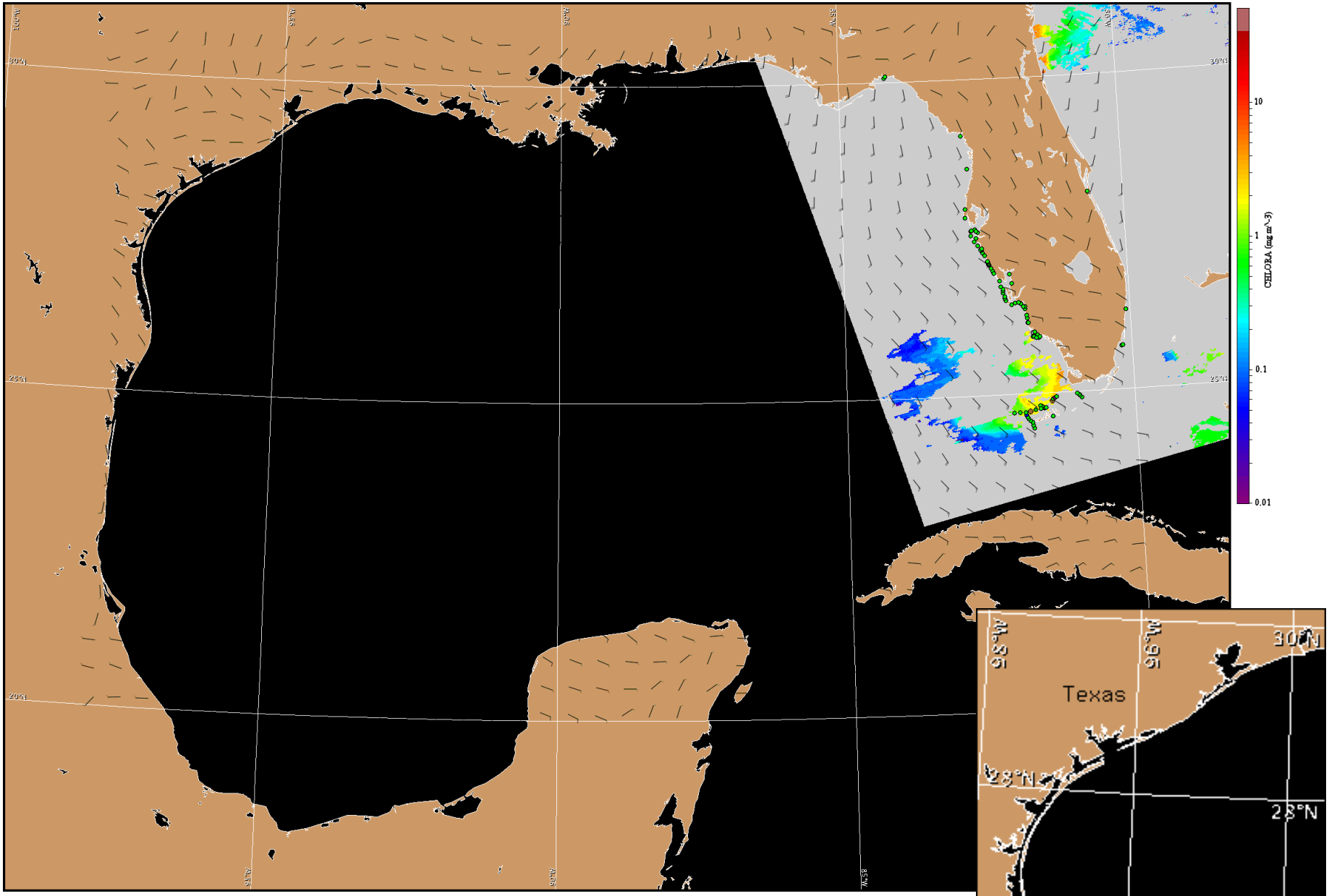
Derner, Kavanaugh



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Port Aransas: South winds (10-20kn, 5-8m/s) today becoming southwest (5-10kn, 3-5m/s) tonight. Southeast winds (5-15kn, 3-8m/s) Tuesday. South winds (10-15kn, 5-8m/s) Wednesday becoming southeast (5-10kn) Wednesday night.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for February 14, 2012 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from February 3 to 10 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:
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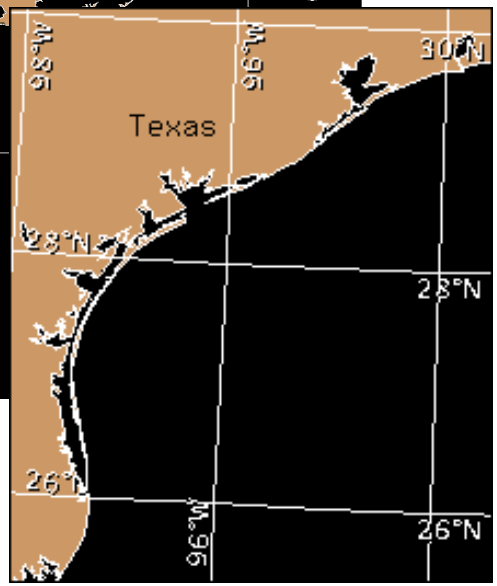

Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).